

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Original) The heel pad of claim [[1]] 5, wherein said layers are each constructed of a foam.
3. (Original) The heel pad of claim 2, wherein said layers are constructed of a polyurethane foam.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) ~~The heel pad of claim 4~~ A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:
  - a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;
  - wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers downward toward said front and said rear;
  - a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core layer, and thicker toward the front and rear edges, wherein said top layer of said cushion tapers downwardly toward said rear;
  - a cover constructed of fluid resistant material in which said cushion is received; and
  - wherein said cover includes a pocket having at least one open end formed beneath said cushion and separated therefrom by a layer of cover material; and
  - a riser insertable within said pocket to raise a portion of said cushion.
6. (Previously amended) The heel pad of claim 5, wherein said riser is triangular in shape and has an inclined surface that extends from the front of said cushion upwardly to the rear of said cushion.

7. (Previously amended) The heel pad of claim 6, wherein said pocket has a triangular section that conforms to the triangular section of said riser.
8. (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim [[4]] 5, wherein said cover has a flap attached at either end, said flaps extending downwardly from a base of said cover; and  
a strap extending between said flaps adapted to secure said cushion beneath the calves of the patient.
9. (Original) The heel pad of claim 8 further comprising a quick connector attached to said flap and extending downwardly for attachment of said strap to said flaps.
10. (Original) The heel pad of claim 8, wherein said flaps extend a selected length for covering the sides of the mattress.
11. (Currently amended) ~~The heel pad of claim 1~~ A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:  
a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;  
wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers downward toward said front and said rear;  
a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core layer, and thicker toward the front and rear edges, wherein said top layer of said cushion tapers downwardly toward said rear; and  
wherein said top layer has a density of about 1.5 lbs. per cubic foot.

12. (Currently amended) ~~The heel pad of claim 1;~~ A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:  
a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;  
wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers downward toward said front and said rear;  
a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core layer, and thicker toward the front and rear edges, wherein said top layer of said cushion tapers downwardly toward said rear; and  
wherein said core layer has a density of about 3.5 lbs. per cubic foot.
13. (Currently amended) ~~The heel pad of claim 1;~~ A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:  
a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;  
wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers downward toward said front and said rear;  
a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core layer, and thicker toward the front and rear edges, wherein said top layer of said cushion tapers downwardly toward said rear; and  
wherein said cushion has a thickness of about 1 inch to about 4 inches.
14. (Original) The heel pad of claim 13, wherein said thickness of said cushion is about 2 inches to about 2.5 inches.
15. (Original) The heel pad of claim 14, wherein said cushion has a thickness of about 2.25 inches.

16. (Original) The heel pad of claim 13, wherein said top layer has a thickness of about one half of the thickness of the cushion.
17. (Original) The heel pad of claim 15, wherein said top layer has a thickness of about one inch.
18. (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim [[1]] 5, wherein said core layer has an apex located centrally relative to the front and rear of said cushion.
19. (Currently amended) ~~The heel pad of claim 1;~~ A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:  
a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;  
wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers downward toward said front and said rear;  
a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core layer, and thicker toward the front and rear edges, wherein said top layer of said cushion tapers downwardly toward said rear; and  
wherein said core layer has a radius of about 4 to about 8 inches.
20. (Currently amended) The heel pad of claim [[1]] 5, wherein said top layer has front and rear edges that round downwardly to conform respectively to the knee and heel of the patient.
21. (Previously amended) The heel pad of claim 20, wherein said front and rear edges of said top layer round downwardly in a symmetrical fashion and have a radius of about one inch.
22. (Cancelled )
23. (Cancelled)

24. (Previously amended) A method of reducing the likelihood of decubitus heel ulcers comprising:

providing a cushion having a front, a rear, a top and a bottom, where said cushion includes a core layer and an outer layer, where the outer layer is softer than the core layer and thicker toward the front and rear of the cushion;

inserting the cushion beneath the calves of the patient and cantilevering the heels of the patient over the end of the pad covering the pad with a fluid resistant cover having downwardly extending flaps and tucking said flaps in around a mattress to maintain the position of the cushion relative to the calves of the patient.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24 further comprising the step of tying said flaps to each other below the mattress.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Canceled)

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) ~~The heel pad of claim 30 further comprising~~ A heel pad for reducing the likelihood of decubitus ulcers on a patient's heels when the patient is lying on a mattress, the heel pad comprising:

a cushion adapted to rest on the mattress beneath the calves of the patient;

wherein said cushion has a front, a rear, a top, a bottom and a pair of ends, said cushion including a core layer having an arched profile, wherein said core tapers downward toward said front and said rear;

a top layer covering said core layer, said top layer being softer than said core layer and thicker toward the front and rear edges; and

a riser located below said cushion and adapted to raise at least a portion of said cushion relative to the mattress.

32. (Previously presented) The heel pad of claim 31, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly an extent effective to avoid pressure against the patient that would reduce blood flow to the patient's calf and heel.
33. (Previously presented) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at the front edge to define a clearance between the top surface of the cushion and the underside of the patient's knee.
34. (Previously presented) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at a radius of at least about 1 inch.
35. (Previously presented) The heel pad of claim 32, wherein said cushion rounds downwardly at a radius conforming to the radius defined by the patient's calf and at least one of the patient's knee and heel.